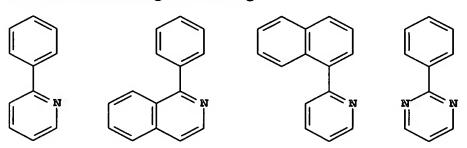
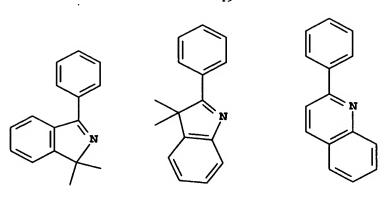
What is claimed is:

- 1. A process for forming an organometallic cyclometallated complex comprising the step of reacting, in an aprotic organic solvent, an organozine complex of a desired organic ligand with a metal complex of an element of atomic number 74 to 79 bearing a leaving group.
- 2. The process of claim 1 wherein the element of atomic number 74 to 79 is platinum.
- 3. The process of claim 1 wherein the element of atomic number 74 to 79 is iridium.
- 4. The process of claim 1 wherein the ligand is a monoanionic ligand that can be coordinated to a metal through an sp² carbon and a heteroatom.
- 5. The process of claim 4 wherein the ligand includes an aromatic ring and a heterocyclic ring.
- 6. The process of claim 5 wherein the heterocyclic ring includes a nitrogen for coordinating to the metal of the metal complex.
- 7. The process of claim 6 wherein the ligand includes at least one chosen from among the following:





- 8. The process of claim 1 wherein the solvent comprises an ether, an alkyl halide, a polar aprotic solvent, or a nitrile group.
- 9. The process of claim 8 wherein the solvent comprises tetrahydrofuran, methylene chloride, or a mixture of the two.
- 10. The process of claim 8 wherein the solvent is substantially free of water.
- 11. The process of claim 1 wherein the metal complex includes from 1 to 6 leaving groups.
- 12. The process of claim 11 wherein one or more of the leaving groups are monodentate.
- 13. The process of claim 11 wherein one or more of the leaving groups are bidentate.
- 14. The process of claim 11 wherein one or more of the leaving groups are neutral.
- 15. The process of claim 14 wherein the leaving groups include pyridine, diethyl sulfide, diethyl ether, dimethylsulfoxide, or tetrahydrofuran.

- 16. The process of claim 11 wherein one or more of the leaving groups have a -1 charge.
- 17. The process of claim 16 wherein the leaving groups include chloride, bromide, iodide, fluoride, acetate, acetonylacetate, trifluoromethanesulfonate, or methoxide.
- 18. The process of claim 1 wherein the organozinc complex is formed from a zinc salt and an organolithium compound.
- 19. The process of claim 1 wherein the organozinc complex is formed from a zinc salt and a Grignard reagent.
- 20. The process of claim 1 wherein the organozinc complex is formed from elemental zinc and an organohalide.
- 21. The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction is performed at room temperature or higher.
- 22. The process of claim 1 wherein the reaction is performed under an inert atmosphere.
- 23. The process of claim 1 wherein a subsequent step converts the resulting isomer into a different isomer.
- 24. The process of claim 23 wherein the conversion is effected by heat or irradiation.
- 25. The process of claim 1 wherein the organozinc complex is represented by formula 1 or 2:

2

RZnY 1 R_2Zn

wherein Y is an anion and R is a monoanionic ligand that can be coordinated to a metal through a carbon and a heteroatom.

26. The process of claim 1 wherein the metal complex of an element of atomic number 74 to 79 is represented by Formula 3:

 $L_m M X_n$ 3

wherein:

M represents a transition metal of atomic number from 74 to 79;

L represents a cyclometallating ligand;

m is 0, 1, or 2;

each X represents an independently selected leaving group; and n is from 1 to 6.